

## **RATINGS Team**

### **Minutes of Conference Call March 1, 2006**

#### Attendees

ABRFC – Janet McCormick, Jeff McMurphy, and Lee Crowley

CBRFC – Brenda Alcorn

LMRFC – Dave Reed, Ethan Jolly, and Amanda Roberts

MARFC – Joe Ostrowski

NCRFC – Dan Prokorny

NERFC – Rob Shedd

OHRFC – Jim Noel

SERFC – Mark Fuch

CRH – Ken King

USGS – Joe Nuelsen

**1. Status Update on Programming Activities (Pokorny)** – Due to high priority activities at NCRFC, Dan had to stop work on this project for while. He is back working on this and expects to have the first version of the program ready for testing by the end of March.

Most of the processing will be done on AWIPS. Commands to access the ratings will be sent to LS1 using ssh. The program to perform this task and the comparison of rating curves will be in Java. Commands sent LS1 will be Perl. Once ratings are received, they will be stored and compared on AWIPS. When a rating is obtained, it will be compared with the current rating by comparing each character and then by comparing the rating curve values. We later learned that the USGS processes the rating curve and that time for processing will always change each day. He may need to ignore the entire header. The application to obtain and process the ratings is written in Java and is compatible with the version on AWIPS. The program can be initiated either via the cron or by the command line.

Ratings are stored in XML which may eventually be utilized to share information between agencies.

The program uses a file of the NWS 5-character ID and the associated USGS gage number. This file can be created using the text editor or it can be populated from data in Informix.

**Action 3/1-1** Complete alpha version of procedures to obtain ratings from the USGS depot by the end of March (Pokorny)

## **RATINGS Team**

### **Minutes of March 1, 2006 Conference call**

#### **Page 1 of 3**

**2. Testing of Programs to Retrieve Ratings (Pokorny)** – The program to retrieve ratings and store them locally should be available for testing by the end of March. LMRFC volunteered to test. Any one else who wishes to test the new software should contact Dan Pokorny.

**3. Status Update of HISIP SON and NID (Reed)** – The initial draft was provided to OHD and it is in the system. There was some original concern that the USGS was making a major change in their processing of ratings but apparently there was confusion with other projects in OHD. At the present time, the USGS does not have any plans to make major changes in the way they process ratings. This project is on hold due to lack of resources but will be reviewed again to see if it can be handled with a maintenance request.

#### **4. Plans and Needed Activities**

**4a. Coding of Utilities** – There was discussion about placing the ratings into NWSRFS. There are no Perl routines to accomplish this and it will likely have to be written in Fortran. CBRFC has been doing that for some time and Brenda Alcorn agreed to take this on as a task.

**Action 3/1-2** Develop code to post new rating curves to NWSRFS (Alcorn)

LMRFC has agreed to develop some of the utilities necessary to view log files as defined in the functional requirements.

**Action 3/1-3** Develop utilities to view log files (LMRFC)

**4b. RUHT Status** – RUHT is the process utilized to transfer the ratings to the WFO. The newest version developed by Scott Dummer is compatible with OB6. There may be some issues with WFOs being down and missing rating curve updates. Joe Ostrowski will take a look at RUHT to see if changes are needed.

**Action 3/1-4** Review RUHT for possible enhancements (Ostrowski)

#### **5. Other Topics –**

**5a) USGS Activities** - Joe Nielsen of the USGS stated that the USGS has plans to incorporate the date of the rating into the file at some time. It has been listed as a need but has not moved high enough up in the priority list. He also informed the group that the USGS is starting to use procedures/programs to process ratings to improve efficiency and make this process easier. This is a change in an internal process but will not result in any changes to the way that ratings are made available to external agencies.

**5b) Data Corrections Depot** – CBRFC has worked with their districts to gain access to the data corrections applied to the ratings. Brenda Alcorn inquired about the possibility of a national depot containing this information. Jim indicated that if all NWS offices agreed that this was needed, it could be added as an enhancement. It would be added to the list of requirements and added to the work queue. The USGS faces a similar challenge as the NWS in trying to provide a

national base of customers a set of common information. They would only provide this if all offices agreed for the need.

**5c) Project Plan** – In the project plan, we had anticipated having this program implemented by the end of calendar year 2005. The schedule has slipped at least 6 months. The project plan will be provided to the team and we will set some timelines at the next conference call.

**Action 3/1-5** Provide team latest draft of project plan (Reed)

**5d) Webpage of activities** – LMRFC had previously posted the notes for the calls on the LMRFC Intranet (SR Red Web). In the past couple of months, SR has restricted access to SR offices only. They are making an exception for WFOs outside SR that receive forecasts and hydrologic services from SR RFCs. Donna Page has agreed to have our notes and information posted to the RDM website.

**Action 3/1-6** Provide OHD/RDM information to support webpage of tram activities (Reed)

**6. Next Call** – Mid to late April.